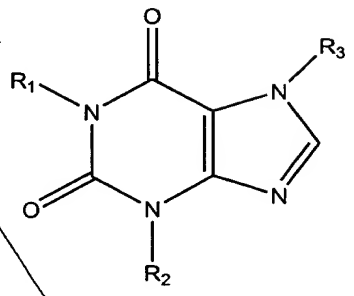
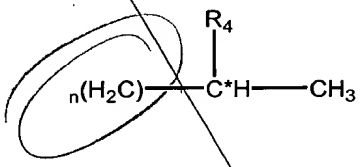
or a structure according to formula I:



I

wherein R_1 has the formula II:



R_2 and R_3 are independently $C_{(1-12)}$ alkyl, optionally, R_2 having one or two nonadjacent carbon atoms of the $C_{(1-12)}$ alkyl being replaced by an oxygen atom; and wherein:

C* is a chiral carbon atom;

n is four;

R_4 is a naturally occurring amino acid or **a** carbohydrate-moiety attached by an oxygen atom to the chiral carbon atom C* by an ester linkage, **[-O-X-$(R_7)_2$]** **-O-X-(R_5)H** or -O-X-$(R_5)_m$; m being two or three and X being selected from the group consisting of C, P or S; **[wherein R_7 is a member independently selected from the group consisting of Group Q, hydrogen, and dimethylamino, wherein when one R_7 is dimethylamino, the other R_7 is =O, n is 4, X is C and R_2 and R_3 are both methyl, and]** wherein R_5 is a member independently selected from Group Q, and

Group Q consists of:

hydroxyl group;

=O;

substituted or unsubstituted $C_{(3-10)}$ alkyl, $C_{(2-10)}$ alkenyl, $C_{(2-10)}$ alkynyl, $C_{(1-10)}$ alkoxyl, $C_{(1-10)}$ oxoalkyl, $C_{(1-10)}$ carboxyalkyl, $C_{(1-10)}$ hydroxyalkyl, or substituted $C_{(1-2)}$ alkyl group;

$-OR_6$, R_6 being a substituted or unsubstituted $C_{(1-10)}$ alkyl, $C_{(2-10)}$ alkenyl, $C_{(2-10)}$ alkynyl, or $C_{(1-10)}$ oxoalkyl;

substituted or unsubstituted heterocylic group, **attached to X through an atom within the ring**, having one or two rings, each ring containing from four to seven atoms, wherein the heteroatom(s) of said heterocyclic group is 1 or 2 nitrogens; and

substituted or unsubstituted carbocyclic group that is attached to X through a carbon atom within a ring, having one or two rings, each ring containing four to seven atoms, wherein the substituents of said substituted carbocyclic group are selected from the group consisting of amino, $C_{(2-6)}$ alkenyl, $C_{(1-6)}$ alkyl, $C_{(1-6)}$ alkoxyl, $C_{(1-6)}$ hydroxyalkyl, hydroxyl, $C_{(1-6)}$ oxoalkyl, azido, carboxy, cyano, $C_{(2-6)}$ mono- or di-haloalkyl, isocyano, isothiocyano, **[alkylphospho, alkylphosphono, alkylsulfoxy,]** imino, **[alkylthio,]** a chlorine atom, a bromine atom, a fluorine atom and an oxygen atom.

6. (Four Times Amended) The compound of claim 1, wherein substituents for the substituted $C_{(1-10)}$ alkyl, $C_{(2-10)}$ alkenyl, $C_{(2-10)}$ alkynyl, $C_{(1-10)}$ alkoxyl, $C_{(1-10)}$ oxoalkyl, or heterocylic groups selected from the group consisting of amino, $C_{(2-6)}$ alkenyl, $C_{(1-6)}$ alkyl, $C_{(1-6)}$ alkoxyl, $C_{(1-6)}$ hydroxyalkyl, $C_{(1-6)}$ oxoalkyl, azido, **[carboxy]** **carboxylic acid moiety**, cyano, $C_{(1-6)}$ haloalkyl, isocyano, isothiocyano, **[alkylphospho, alkylphosphono, alkylsulfoxy,]** imino, alkylthio, **mercaptoalkoxy,** or a chlorine, bromine, fluorine and oxygen atom.

10. (Four Times Amended) The compound of claim 1, wherein the **carbocyclic [cyclic]** or heterocyclic **group** is selected from the group consisting of benzyl, phenyl, biphenyl, cyclohexyl, cyclohexenyl, cyclopentyl, **[nicotinyl,]** cyclopentenyl, cyclopentanedionyl, napthlalenyl, phenolyl, quinonyl, cyclobutyl, cycloheptyl, cycloheptenyl, indanyl, indenyl, decalinyl, resorcinolyl, tetralinyl, α-tetralonyl, 1-indanonyl, cyclohexanedionyl, cyclopentanedionyl, dimethylxanthinyl, methylxanthinyl, phthalimidyl, homophthalimidyl, quinazolinonyl, **[octylcarboxamidophenyl,]** glutarimidyl, piperidonyl, succinimidyl, dimethoxyphenyl, methyldihydrouracilyl, methyluracilyl, methylthyminyl, piperidinyl, dihydroxybenzenyl, methylpurinyl, methylxanthinyl and dimethylxanthinyl.

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12. (Three Times Amended) The compound of claim 11, wherein the other R_5, other than =O, is **[selected from the group consisting of]** trimethoxy-substituted phenyl**[, and phenylamino]**.

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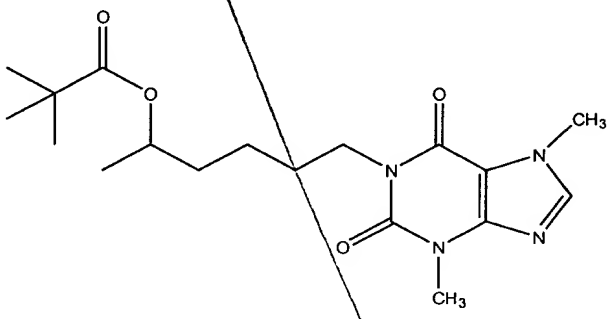
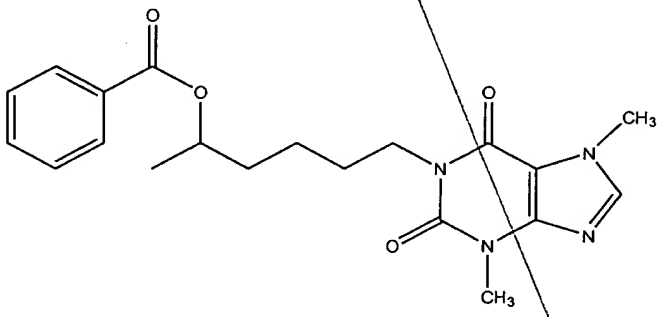
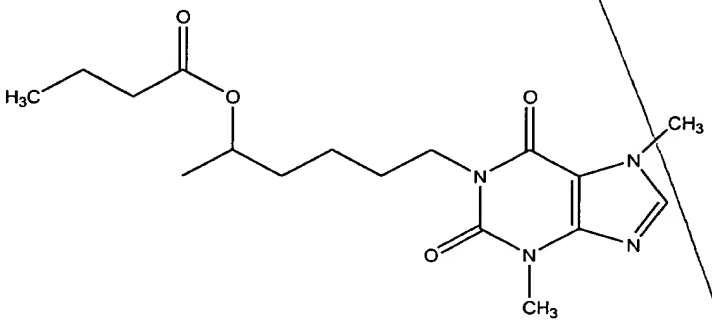
14. (Twice Amended) The compound of claim 1, wherein said compound is selected from:

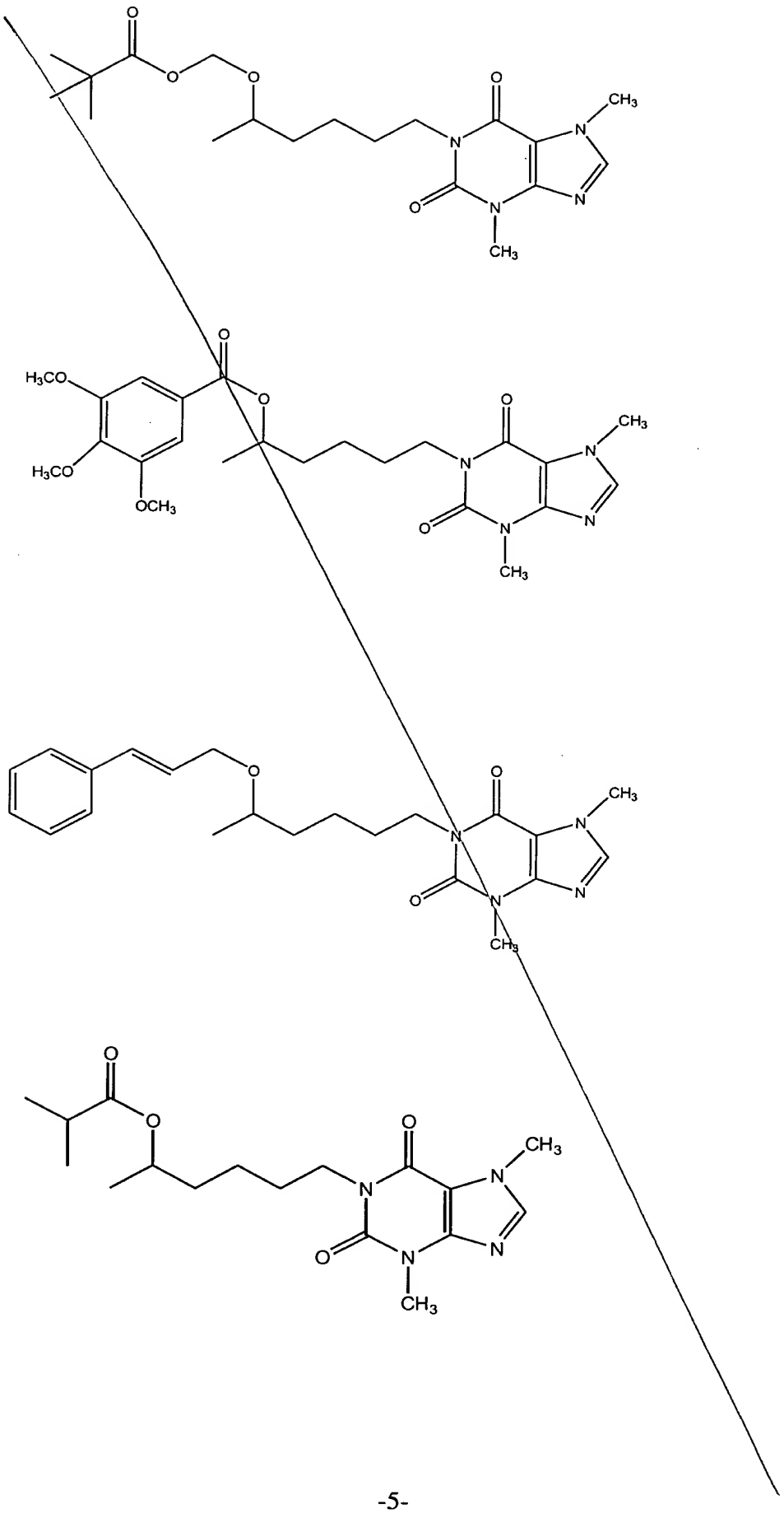


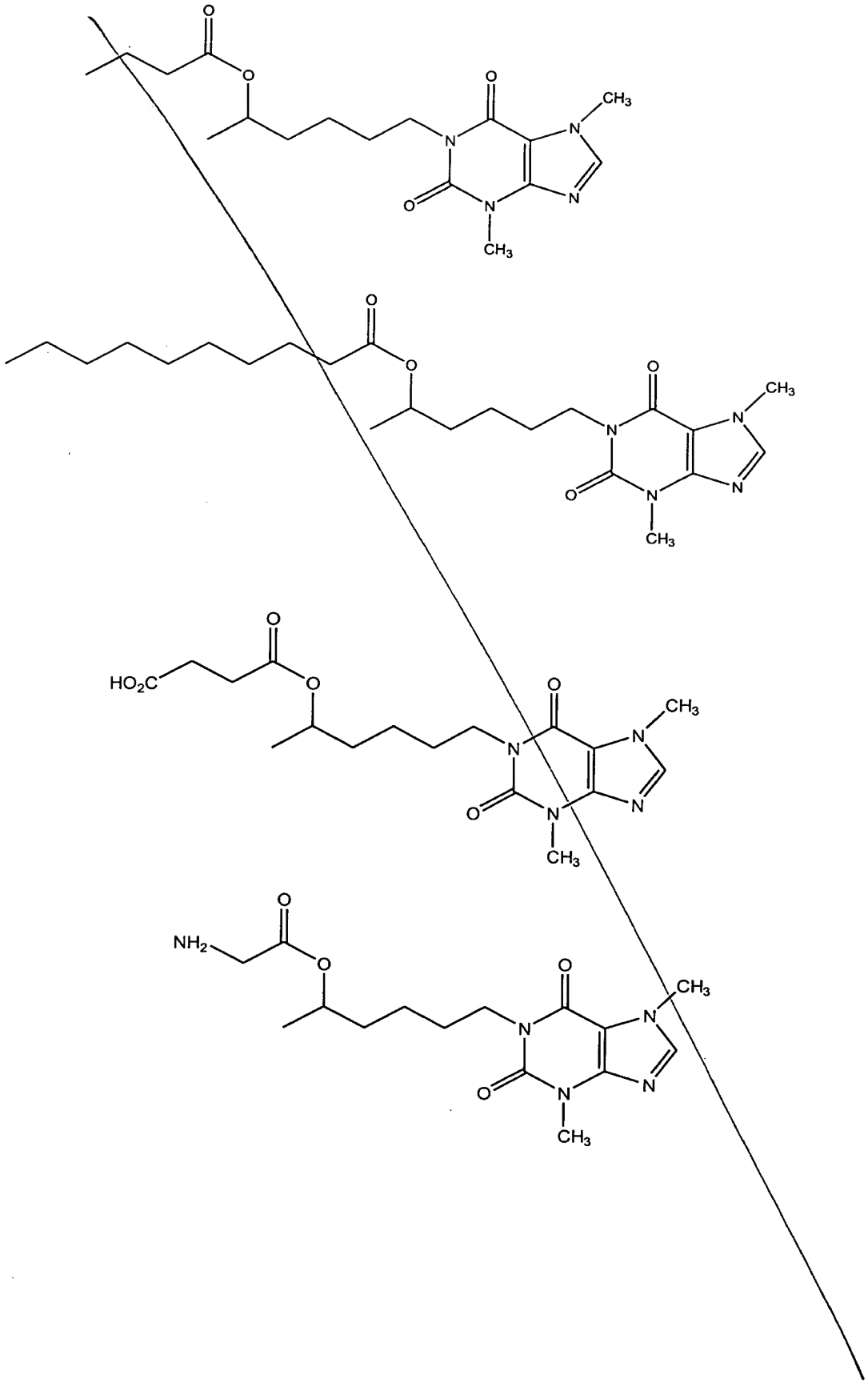


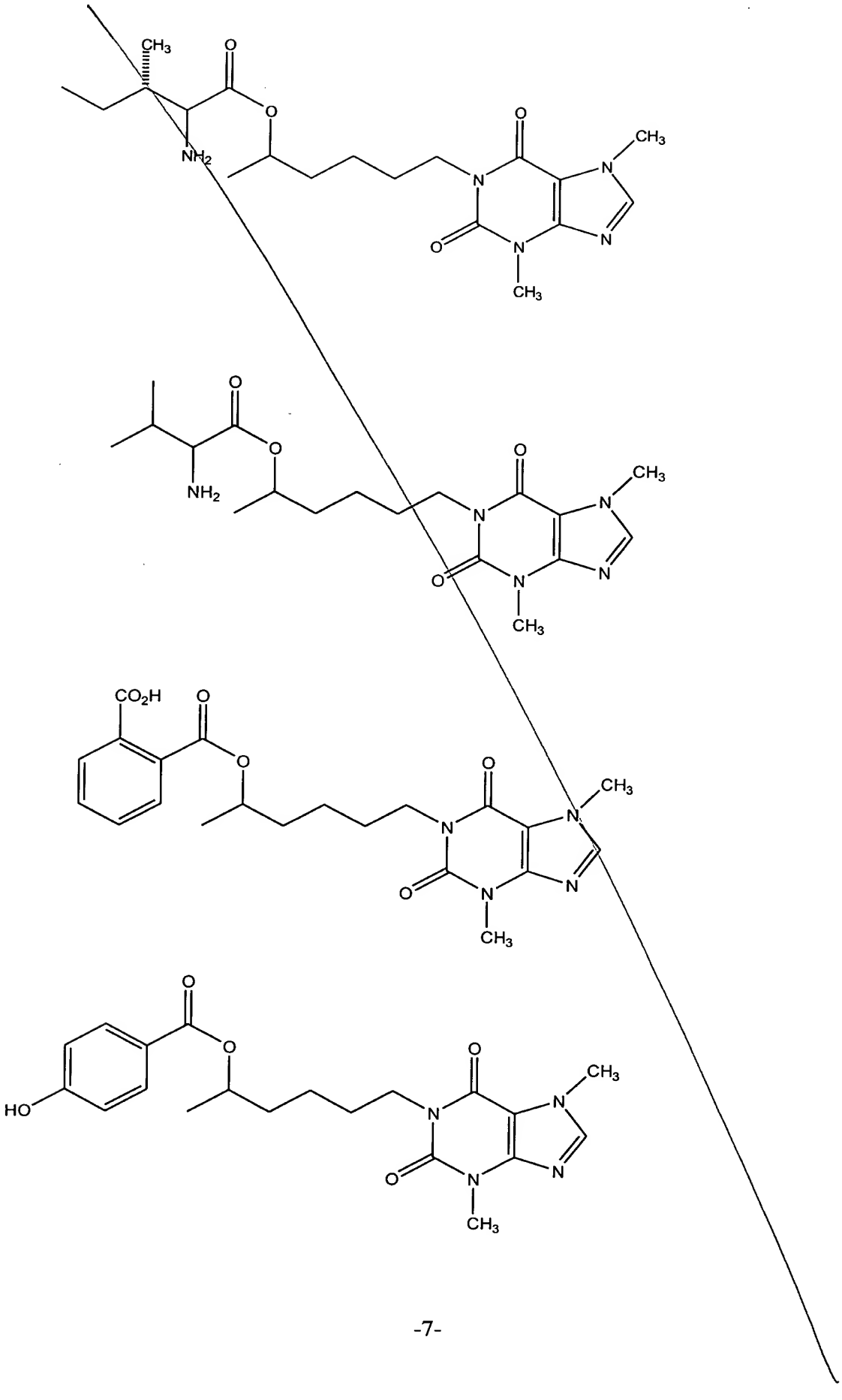


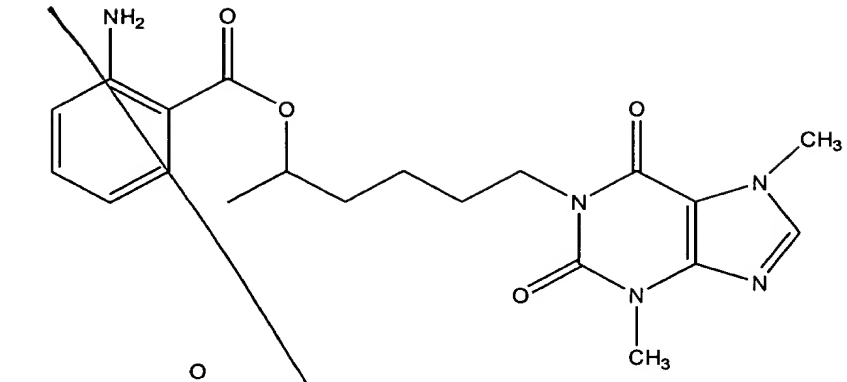
1,5-

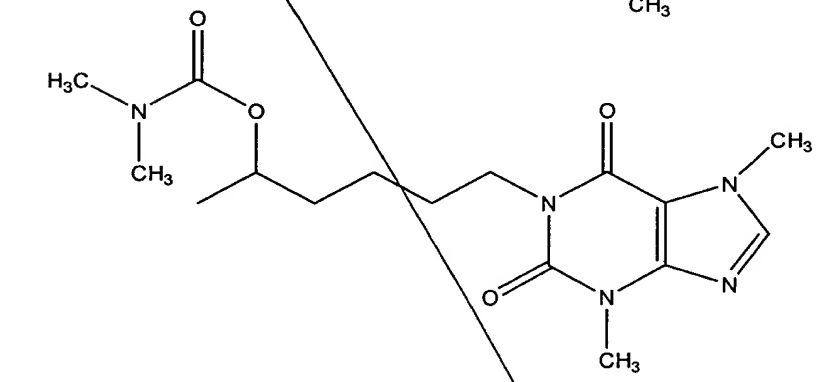
11 cont



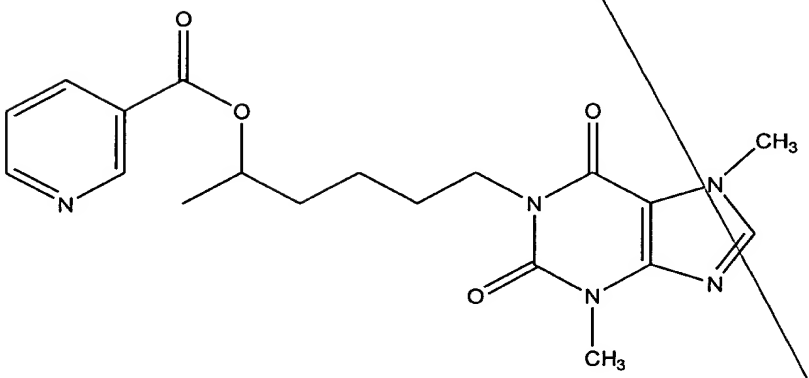




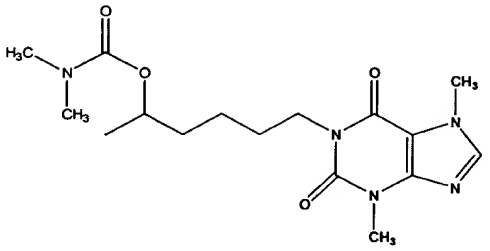




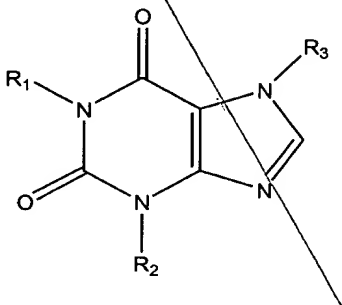
and



15. (Four Times Amended) A pharmaceutical composition comprising a pharmaceutically acceptable excipient or carrier and a compound having the following **structure:**

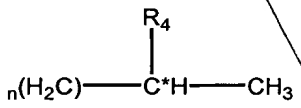


or a structure according to formula I:



I

wherein R_1 has the formula II:



R_2 and R_3 are independently $C_{(1-12)}$ alkyl, optionally, R_2 having one or two nonadjacent carbon atoms of the $C_{(1-12)}$ alkyl being replaced by an oxygen atom; and wherein:

C* is a chiral carbon atom;

n is four;

R_4 is a naturally occurring amino acid or a carbohydrate-moiety attached by an oxygen atom to the chiral carbon atom C* by an ester linkage, **[-O-X-$(R_7)_2$]** **-O-X-(R_5)H** or -O-X-$(R_5)_m$; m being two or three and X being selected from the group consisting of C, P or S; **[wherein R_7 is a member independently selected from the group consisting of Group Q,**

hydrogen, and dimethylamino, wherein when one R_7 is dimethylamino, the other R_7 is =O, n is 4, X is C and R_2 and R_3 are both methyl, and] wherein R_5 is a member independently selected from Group Q, and

Group Q consists of:

hydroxyl group;

=O;

substituted or unsubstituted $C_{(3-10)}$ alkyl, $C_{(2-10)}$ alkenyl, $C_{(2-10)}$ alkynyl, $C_{(1-10)}$ alkoxyl, $C_{(1-10)}$ oxoalkyl, $C_{(1-10)}$ carboxyalkyl, $C_{(1-10)}$ hydroxyalkyl, or substituted $C_{(1-2)}$ alkyl group;

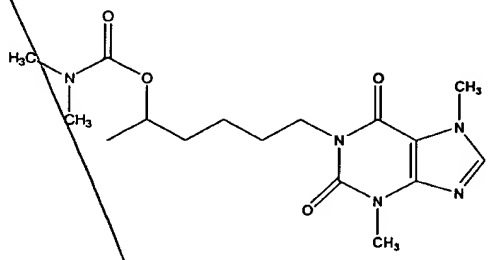
$-OR_6$, R_6 being a substituted or unsubstituted $C_{(1-10)}$ alkyl, $C_{(2-10)}$ alkenyl, $C_{(2-10)}$ alkynyl, or $C_{(1-10)}$ oxoalkyl;

substituted or unsubstituted heterocylic group**, attached to X through an atom within the ring**, having one or two rings, each ring containing from four to seven atoms, wherein the heteroatom(s) of said heterocyclic group is 1 or 2 nitrogens; and

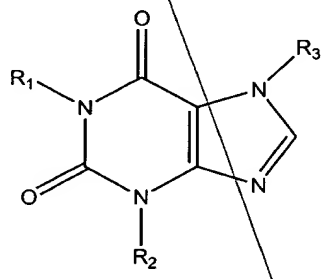
substituted or unsubstituted carbocyclic group that is attached to X through a carbon atom within a ring, having one or two rings, each ring containing four to seven atoms, wherein the substituents of said substituted carbocyclic group are selected from the group consisting of amino, $C_{(2-6)}$ alkenyl, $C_{(1-6)}$ alkyl, $C_{(1-6)}$ alkoxyl, $C_{(1-6)}$ hydroxyalkyl, hydroxyl, $C_{(1-6)}$ oxoalkyl, azido, carboxy, cyano, $C_{(2-6)}$ mono- or di-haloalkyl, isocyano, isothiocyano, **[alkylphospho, alkylphosphono, alkylsulfoxy,]** imino, **[alkylthio,]** a chlorine atom, a bromine atom, a fluorine atom and an oxygen atom.

18. (Amended) The pharmaceutical composition of claim 15, wherein R_5 is **[selected from the group consisting of]** trimethoxy-substituted phenyl**[phenolyl and benzamino]**.

20. (Three Times Amended) A compound **having the following structure:**

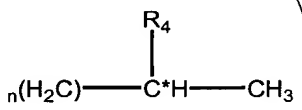


or a structure according to [**of**] formula I:



I

wherein R_1 or R_2 has the formula II:



R_1 or R_2, which is other than formula II, and R_3 are independently $C_{(1-12)}$ alkyl, optionally, R_2 having one or two nonadjacent carbon atoms of the $C_{(1-12)}$ alkyl being replaced by an oxygen atom; and wherein:

C* is a chiral carbon atom;

n is four;

R_4 is a naturally occurring amino acid or **a** carbohydrate-moiety attached by an oxygen atom to the chiral carbon atom C* by an ester linkage, **[-O-X-(R_7)$_2$]** **-O-X-(R_5)H** or -O-X-(R_5)$_m$; m being two or three and X being selected from the group consisting of C, P or S; **[wherein R_7 is a member independently selected from the group consisting of Group Q, hydrogen, and dimethylamino, wherein when one R_7 is dimethylamino, the other R_7 is =O, n is 4, X is C and R_2 and R_3 are both methyl, and]** wherein R_5 is a member independently selected from Group Q, and

Group Q consists of:

hydroxyl group;

=O;

substituted or unsubstituted $C_{(3-10)}$ alkyl, $C_{(2-10)}$ alkenyl, $C_{(2-10)}$ alkynyl, $C_{(1-10)}$ alkoxyl, $C_{(1-10)}$ oxoalkyl, $C_{(1-10)}$ carboxyalkyl, $C_{(1-10)}$ hydroxyalkyl, or substituted $C_{(1-2)}$ alkyl group;

$-OR_6$, R_6 being a substituted or unsubstituted $C_{(1-10)}$ alkyl, $C_{(2-10)}$ alkenyl, $C_{(2-10)}$ alkynyl, or $C_{(1-10)}$ oxoalkyl;

substituted or unsubstituted heterocylic group**, attached to X through an atom within the ring**, having one or two rings, each ring containing from four to seven atoms, wherein the heteroatom(s) of said heterocyclic group is 1 or 2 nitrogens; and

substituted or unsubstituted carbocyclic group that is attached to X through a carbon atom within a ring, having one or two rings, each ring containing four to seven atoms, wherein the substituents of said substituted carbocyclic group are selected from the group consisting of amino, $C_{(2-6)}$ alkenyl, $C_{(1-6)}$ alkyl, $C_{(1-6)}$ alkoxyl, $C_{(1-6)}$ hydroxyalkyl, hydroxyl, $C_{(1-6)}$ oxoalkyl, azido, carboxy, cyano, $C_{(2-6)}$ mono- or di-haloalkyl, isocyano, isothiocyano, **[alkylphospho, alkylphosphono, alkylsulfoxy,]** imino, **[alkylthio,]** a chlorine atom, a bromine atom, a fluorine atom and an oxygen atom.

21. (Amended) A compound according to claim 1, wherein R_2 and R_3 are methyl, and wherein R_6 is a

substituted or unsubstituted $C_{(1-10)}$ alkyl, $C_{(2-10)}$ alkenyl, $C_{(2-10)}$ alkynyl, or $C_{(1-10)}$ oxoalkyl;

substituted or unsubstituted heterocylic group**, attached to X through an atom within the ring**, having one or two rings, each ring containing from four to seven atoms, and a single nitrogen as the heteroatom; or

substituted or unsubstituted carbocyclic group that is attached to X through a carbon atom within a ring, having one ring containing four to seven atoms, wherein the substituents of said substituted carbocyclic group are selected from the group consisting of amino, $C_{(2-6)}$ alkenyl, $C_{(1-6)}$ alkyl, $C_{(1-6)}$ alkoxyl, $C_{(1-6)}$ hydroxyalkyl, hydroxyl, $C_{(1-6)}$ oxoalkyl, azido, carboxy, cyano, $C_{(2-6)}$ mono- or di-haloalkyl, isocyano, isothiocyano, imino, a chlorine atom, a bromine atom, a fluorine atom and an oxygen atom.

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22. (Amended) A compound according to claim 21, wherein **[one]** R_7 is =O **[and wherin]** **or wherein** one R_5 is =O.

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26. (Amended) A compound according to claim 25, wherein R_5 is a member independently selected from the group consisting of **[a hydrogen atom; a]** **an** hydroxyl group; =O; substituted or unsubstituted $C_{(3-10)}$ alkyl, $C_{(2-10)}$ alkenyl, $C_{(2-10)}$ alkynyl, $C_{(1-10)}$ alkoxyl, $C_{(1-10)}$ oxoalkyl, $C_{(1-10)}$ carboxyalkyl, $C_{(1-10)}$ hydroxyalkyl; and a substituted $C_{(1-2)}$ alkyl group.

19 Cont

27. (Amended) A compound according to claim 26, wherein R_5 is **[H,]** OH or =O.